

Lesson 3: The Tabernacle

Central Point: Beautiful Rich Typology of the Earthy Tabernacle, Jesus and Heaven

Along with giving the Ten Commandments, God gave some additional directions. He gave special instructions for building a Tabernacle, for establishing an elaborate system of sacrifices, and for ordaining a priesthood. After receiving these instructions, Moses built an altar and offered a sacrifice to God. He took the blood of the sacrificed animals and splashed it against the altar. Then after publicly reading the Ten Commandments and other laws before the nation, he applied blood to the people themselves. In the same manner, he sprinkled blood over the Book of the Covenant containing the Ten Commandments and all the laws. Later he would sprinkle blood over the Tabernacle and all its furnishings used in worship as well as those who would minister as priests- innocent blood is the symbol of life shed for the guilty.

Exodus 24:8

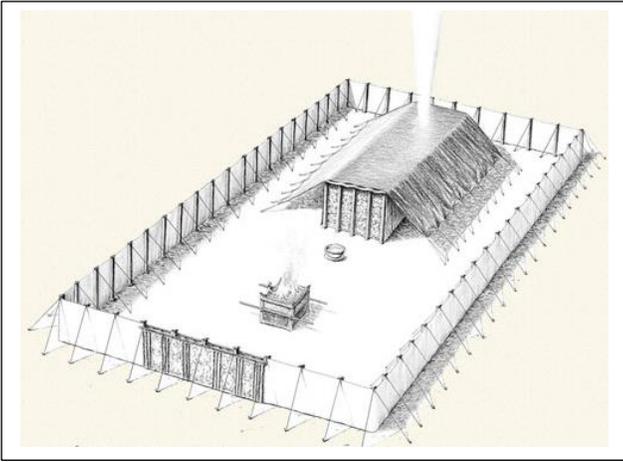
Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

- The necessity for blood as the remedy for sin goes back to Cain & Abel- Gen. 4:2-7
- **Question:** “God gave to Israel the Law, but what happens when they broke the law?”
- Remedy: The Levitical priesthood and animal blood was a temporary covering for sin
- The blood of sacrificial animals represented forgiveness of sins- but it was not perfect

Hebrews 10:3-4, “But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

- When Old Covenant believers died, they went to Abraham’s Bosom- Luke 16:19-31
- **Please Read:** Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:21-22, 24-25 *The OT law did not impart righteousness*
- **Question:** “What was the purpose of the 10 Commandments?”
- The purpose of the law was to identify what sin was (Ro. 7:7) & lead us to Jesus
- The sacrificial system of the OT were types and shadows of what Jesus would fulfill
- **Please Read:** Hebrews Chapter 9
- The priests who condemned Jesus were afraid of being put out of the job- John 11:48

God had in mind that when the Hebrew heard the Ten Commandments he would run as fast as he could to the Tabernacle, kill a lamb and offer the blood in his place as a substitute sin offering to a holy God-. Therefore God established a Tabernacle, a sacrifice system and a priesthood as the way for the Hebrew to approach Him as a temporary system- only covered sin. Once Jesus came he would take away sin once and for all- John 1:36



God gave precise instructions to Moses in how to construct the natural replica of God's tabernacle that was already in heaven.

- **Please Read: Exodus 25:1-9**

The tabernacle was to be the place where God will meet and dwell with His covenant people.

God gave precise directions because the earthly tabernacle was a replica of what's in heaven!

- **Please Read: Heb. 8:5; Rev. 11:19** *Nothing could be left to chance or man's imagination*
- They could only offer sacrifices to God at the tabernacle via priesthood
- As it is today we can only approach the Father's throne of grace through Jesus **John 14:6**
- Tabernacle was portable so that the Hebrews could carry it with them on their journey

Later, when they got into their Promise Land, a more permanent structure was needed. God then used King Solomon to build a Temple- 1 Kings 5-8. Solomon's Temple was destroyed in 587 B.C. when Jerusalem finally fell to the Babylonians- 2 Kings 25:8-9.

- Upon returning from Babylonian captivity, Temple was rebuilt in 536 B.C. Ezra 1:1-2
- Around 19 B.C. King Herod restored the temple and made it more grand and majestic
- The temple was destroyed again in 70 A.D this time by the Romans
- The present day Jews will rebuild the temple before Jesus' return- Rev. 11:1; Daniel 9:27

The tribes of Israel were camped around the Tabernacle in specific locations which God assigned to each of them. Also, each tribe flew its own flag Numbers 2:2

- **Please Read: 27:9-21**
- The Tabernacle stood inside an outer enclosure or courtyard- 150 feet long/75 feet wide
- That's one-half the length of a football field, and about as wide

Any of the Israelites could enter the courtyard, but only priests were allowed in the Tabernacle, and only the high priest was allowed in the holy of holies once a year. The Tabernacle had two coverings; outer covering visible to the passerby was made of badger's skin. It was a dull, unattractive grayish color. The covering facing inside the tabernacle was made of ram's skins that had been dyed red- we will talk more about tabernacle later on.